

Meetings

We had another good write-up in ABPS News, this time in the Spring 2016 issue. This included a photo of Molly Lucas who selected Martyn Britton as the winner of the club Christmas competition to design a Christmas stamp.



Prior to this we had a visit from Bridgend when Reg Lyon illustrated his life in the RAF, Brian Brandon chose the topical theme of Ypres and Nigel McGaw completed the evening with Prisoner of War camps in Wales in World War 2. The meeting at the end of November was on forgeries and fantasy stamps when members showed a wide range of unusual items from their collections.

Nineteen members turned up for the first meeting of 2016, when we moved through the alphabet to the letter "E". This brought out a wide range of material from Einstein to Elephant Island. For the chairman's night Alistair MacKinnon continued his Antarctic theme with a display of Graham Land. February started with Martyn Britton reminiscing about his holiday in Fiji. The auction night attracted a large numbers of items with low reserves with sales totally more than £220.

The club competition night on 9 March attracted



only seven entries this year. The winners were Erene Grieve for her thematic display on "The Written Word", John Perry for the postal history of Bratislava from 1838 to 1939, Michael Bale for his entry in the general class of King George VI Bahamas and Roy Bentley for the best eight sheet entry comprising Phillips airmail to Canada. Shown here is chairman Alistair MacKinnon with the winners.

The evening with Roy Holliss and his Cover Love stock was as enjoyable as ever with many interesting items to be found in his rummage boxes. This was followed by an evening of item's from the late Gwen Hussey's collection and an evening where anything philatelic was allowed. The ladies' evening at the beginning of May was preceded by the presentation by Roy Bentley to John Perry of the APBS Award of Merit.



Three members displayed: Margaret Harding with perfins, Molly Lucas with Manchester United, and Bev Davies with Berlin Airlift, German flights and, to round off, GB prominent women. Members were also informed that the ABPS Congress will be held at the Jury's Hotel, Park Place, Cardiff from 27 to 30 July 2017. Newport, Cardiff and Barry clubs will be involved.

Visits

The first visit of 2016 was to Cardiff on St David's Day. John Perry started the evening with a display of GB stamp issues relating to the day including several illustrated covers for the Welsh Bible issue. He then followed with a viewing of his planned competition entry on the postal history of Bratislava. Roy Bentley showed Lundy stamps from the first issue, Martyn Britton brought along paquebot material from Newport and from Fiji and Alistair

MacKinnon completed the evening with another aspect of Antarctic philately, this time the British bases.

We followed this with a visit to Bridgend where the same four formed the team. It would be good to see more members at these enjoyable events.

Juniors

We had a most successful morning at the Dell School in Chepstow on 10 March, with a group of 60 juniors enthralled by Erene Grieve's introduction to stamp collecting. This was the prelude to the new group joining the stamp club and hopefully developing their interest during the next school year. The aim is to enter for the competitions next year.



Without giving anything away, Jack Woodman, shown here receiving his prize of a GB Presentation Pack from Erene Grieve, gave the correct answer to the question that Erene posed at the end of the morning. This was to estimate how many stamps were in her 10/- bag of stamps that she had acquired many years ago. Erene and Bev also ran stamp workshops at Shirenewton and Tutshill.

Federation News

To catch up with news of the Federation and its clubs, I put the Federation Newsletter on the website <http://fswps.weebly.com/>. Our own members will be saddened by the news that John Beechey of the Bridgend club passed away in April.

Heidenheim Stamp Club

Not new news but browsing through the British Philatelic Bulletins for 1982, I found this snippet. I have both start and end dates in my collection

and they are listed alongside the other known postmark with a Gwent connection on our club website.

Newport (Gwent) and Heidenheim (West Germany)

First Anniversary of Twinning

To commemorate the first anniversary of the twinning of Newport with Heidenheim, a limited number of covers bearing a 15½p 'Youth Organisations' stamp cancelled with a special handstamp will be available between 15 May and 12 June 1982.

The cover depicts the badges of both towns. Heidenheim is situated 48 miles east of Stuttgart on the River Brenz – a tributary of the Danube.

The cost of the cover is £1: for overseas orders 25p should be added. Remittances, made payable to 'Newport Borough Council', together with orders should be sent to: The Chief Executive (Stamp Offer), Newport Borough Council, Civic Centre, NEWPORT, Gwent, NPT 4UR.

Members will be pleased to know that the Heidenheim Philatelic Society received the FEPA Certificate of Appreciation for 2013, which was presented to Helmuth Feichtenbeiner by Alfred Kunz, FEPA Treasurer and member of the Jury.



Stamp News

Members may recall the Rowland Hill awards that were initiated in 1997 but ceased in 2006. The winner in the youth work category for 1998 was none other than Erene Grieve. The same year saw the award for post office excellence given to Wendy Potts from Newport sub post office. Whether this is our Newport or one of the others in the UK is not known. Perhaps one of our members may know.

Please remember that our own club website is a mine of local philatelic information:

<http://newportgwentphilatelic.weebly.com/>.

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